

REMARKS

Claims 2, 12 and 15 are being canceled. Claims 21 – 24 have been added. Claims 1, 3-6, 10, 11, 13, 14 and 21-24 are pending.

Drawings:

Claim 12 has been canceled to obviate the drawing objection.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b):

Claims 1-6 and 10-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,043,861 to Neal.

Neal '861 does not anticipate the present invention. Regarding claim 1, Neal '861 does not disclose a generally planar member defining a pair of opposed surfaces, and wherein portions of the opposed surfaces are received within the internal thread set of the non-planar member.

Regarding claim 10, Neal '861 does not disclose a first member having a pair of generally-opposed major surfaces and which extends into the internal thread set of the second member.

Regarding claim 14, Neal '861 does not disclose a second member having an internal thread set which operatively receives portions of both the threaded coupling member and the first member.

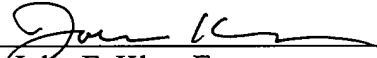
As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the pending claims and arguments. Applicant respectfully submits that, as amended, the subject application is in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is kindly requested. Should the Examiner wish to discuss these claims further, or should an Examiner's Amendment be needed in order for the claims to proceed to allowance, the Examiner is invited to direct any questions regarding this application to John Klos at (612) 321-2806.

Respectfully submitted,
Tennant Company, by its attorneys,

Dated: June 29, 2004


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